

SHARON HILL, PA – Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) visited the Academy Park High School in Sharon Hill, Pa., today, April 16, 2009, to speak on the responsibilities of today's leaders and took questions from the student body. The Congressman was introduced by Academy Park Principal, Alan Johnson.

Congressman Sestak said it was crucial that leaders, especially those in government, work to regain the trust and esteem of the people. To this end, the Congressman discussed his efforts to eliminate the partisan politics that hinder the government's service to the people and erode public confidence.

"Unfortunately, our government has earned a deserved reputation during the past decade for increasing partisanship and, as a result, declining efficiency and effectiveness in the legislative and regulatory process. However," said Congressman Sestak, "in the past two years, I have seen excellent examples of bipartisanship and those are the models we are trying to make the standard of conduct. It's time we all follow President Obama's example, put bickering behind us, and get to serious work for the American people during a time of crisis."

In addition to this bipartisanship, Congressman Sestak said that accountability and bringing a higher ethical standard to Washington are his top priorities. "Our government can only operate most effectively if there is full disclosure of officials' actions and the influences that impact their decision-making," said Congressman Sestak. "It is crucial that the American people hold government accountable for working in the best interest of the public."

Academy Park High School, a public high school in the Southeast Delco School District, has an enrolment of more than 1,000 students.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from*

*Harvard University.* According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

###